



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 13, 2002

I send greetings to those celebrating the 227th birthday of the United States Army.

As we face the challenges of a new era, our Nation relies on our military to defend our homeland and sustain our ideals. The men and women of the United States Armed Forces reflect America's history of strength, compassion, and love of freedom.

On June 14th, the United States Army celebrates its 227th year of service, and I encourage all Americans to recognize the great courage, sacrifice, and commitment that our servicemen and women have given to our country. Since the Army's founding in 1775, soldiers have bravely represented our country in wars, conflicts and peace keeping missions. From the American Revolution to the current War on Terrorism, these patriots have helped to define our history and guide our future. From a small band of revolutionary patriots determined to win life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, the United States Army has grown to include more than 1.2 million active, reserve, and National Guard soldiers. As the finest fighting force in the world, the United States Army is a proud and enduring symbol of the American spirit.

During this time, we pledge to honor the memory of the men and women who have preserved the principles of our Nation, and to honor those who continue their legacy of selfless service. I salute our brave servicemen and women, both past and present, and commend the members of the United States Army for 227 years of unmatched dedication, bravery and excellence.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "George W. Bush".